

FIVE GOAL START TO WANDERERS' FINAL ATTEMPT

By STUART EARP, Wycombe Wanderers 5, Hornchurch 0

POOR Hornchurch proved hopelessly inadequate to deal with the full might of Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday at Loakes Park where three goals by Steve Perrin brought their downfall and ensured the Blues of a place in round two of the final Amateur Cup competition.

From the very start it seemed Wycombe were in no mood for charity and it soon became apparent that they were a class above their Essex opponents. As hard as they tried, Hornchurch just couldn't stem the steady tide of Wanderers attacks and but for a fine goalkeeping display by Geoff Powell, they could so easily have been overwhelmed.

By half time the home side were 3-0 up through Perrin (2) and Dylan Evans, making the result a formality.

Hornchurch had no answer to the constant Wycombe pressure. Centre back Ken Dearman managed to break up many home raids but the absence of regular centre half Doughty, who failed to turn up, was an obvious handicap.

Unfront, Hornchurch were virtually non-existent. Alan Noonan, top scorer for the club, spent more of his time verbally attacking his colleagues than playing football, while the other front runners had either the skill nor the physical stature to bother Dave Bullock and Phil Wood.

Wanderers made one change from the side that trimmed Clapton 4-0 last week. Top goalscorer Tony Horseman returned at inside forward which meant there was no place for Graham Mackenzie, who was so impressive last week. Mick Holifield dropped back to his midfield position.

It was the latter who really destroyed Hornchurch. Mick's speed and ball control saw him

break through the visitors rearguard time and again. He faded in the second half but with performances like this, it can't be long before he wins a deserved England cap. The most spectacular of the midfield trio, he was ably supported by Terry Reardon and Larry Pritchard who must make up about the most creative midfield unit in the league.

Reardon set up Wycombe's first chance of the match in the very first minute when his firmly taken free kick caught Hornchurch off guard. Pritchard was at least a yard quicker off the mark than the visitors' defence but he couldn't quite control the ball and it slid away for a goalkick.

It didn't really matter. Two minutes later Wanderers were a goal up. Goalkeeper Powell was to blame for the score, about his only mistake on the day. He came out to field Roger Grant's corner but casually let it slip from his grasp. Holifield retrieved the ball and crossed for Perrin to soar up at the near post and neatly head home. The case with which Steve scored the goal emphasised the lack of height in the Hornchurch defence which was to be exposed again later on.

After their nervous start, Hornchurch came forward in numbers, sometimes leaving only a couple of men back. But it was always Wycombe who looked more likely to score. Two quick-fire raids in the 12th and

14th minutes soon pegged back their opponents.

About closest Hornchurch came to scoring was in the 18th minute when Alan Hale and Noonan worked a 1-2 inside the home box with the latter sending a volley just over the top from a narrow angle.

Two minutes later, the Blues went further ahead with a similar goal to the first. A long throw in by Grant was met by Evans who headed into the area. Perrin again sprinted in, outjumped the defence and headed firmly into the roof of the net. The pressure continued as Hornchurch continually threw away what possession came their way. The Essex men also gave away more than their fair share of free kicks,

which hardly helped their cause.

The third goal came after 32 minutes, again via the accurate boot of overlapping Roger Grant. This time his cross found Horseman at the far post. "Bogger" headed across the face of the goal for Dylan Evans to slide the ball home in-off the post.

Dearman almost put through his own net and Reardon tried an astute chip which Powell plucked out of the air brilliantly before half time but the pressure was unceasing and in the second half, there was to be no let up for the Athenian Leaguers. On corner kicks alone, Wycombe were miles ahead, recording nine to add to their first half tally of seven. Hornchurch managed a solitary one.

At one stage the Blues won four successive corners with Dave Bullock ending the sequence by sending a back-header fractionally above the crossbar.

Bringing on John Scrivener for Peter Taylor in the 65th minute had little effect on Hornchurch and five minutes later Perrin completed a fine hat-trick with the best goal of the three. Reardon tried a shot from the edge of the box but it struck a defender and squirted out to Perrin, who took one look and cracked the ball straight into the back of the net.

Paul Birdseye came on for Rob Williams in the 72nd minute, but by this time, Wycombe were beginning to become too intricate with their build-ups. Their rather lazy approach cost them at least a couple of extra goals, although Tony Horseman, playing despite a niggling back injury, did make it five before the final whistle.

With the crowd growing impatient, Holifield produced an exciting run of 20 yards into the Hornchurch penalty area. Slipping past the full back, he had a clear shooting chance himself but spotted Horseman in a better position, pushed the ball inside and gave Bogger the chance to fire home his 26th goal of the season.

The last ten minutes were really just target practice for the Blues but again Powell came to the rescue with some fine saves. With performances like this, it is quite clear that Wycombe will take a good deal of stopping in the Cup this season.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; R. Perrin, S. Evans, P. Birdseye (72 mins.), P. Wood, D. Bullock, R. Grant, T. Reardon, L. Pritchard, M. Holifield, A. Horseman, D. Evans, S. Perrin.

HORNCHURCH: G. Powell; M. Frearson, H. Hale, D. Dearman, P. Goddard, P. Taylor (sub. J. Scrivener 65 mins.), C. Emsden, E. Warren, A. Noonan, A. Hale, E. Jacobine.

Referee: D. A. Patten (Yateley).
Half-time: 3-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe - Perrin (3, 20, 70), Evans (32). Horseman (79).
Attendance (all pay): 1,900.

Wycombe go North

FOR the first time in several years, Wycombe Wanderers have been drawn away to Northern League opposition in the Amateur Cup. On Saturday, January 26, they make the 500 mile round trip to meet Evenwood Town in the second round.

Reaction to the draw was varied and apart from their Northern League status, little was known about Evenwood. In the last round they won at Ormskirk 2-1, but despite that cup success, their progress in the league this season has been only average. Their playing record reads P. 22, W. 8, L. 9, D. 5, goals for 37, goals against 38, for a total of 21 points. They are in mid-table and a long way behind the two runaway leaders, Blyth Spartans and Spennymoor United.

Evenwood have never got past the fourth round of the Amateur Cup but last term they came close when they drew with Highgate in the quarter finals, only to lose the replay.

It is difficult to judge the standard of this Evenwood club. At first glance they look like a village team, more suited to the Wycombe League than the Northern League. For instance . . .

The village of Evenwood has a population of only 2-3,000 and possesses only about 20 shops. Cricket is played on the football pitch in the summer. There is no manager or coach at the club. Training is taken by one of the players and the club got through no less than three managers last season.

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Facilities at Evenwood do not compare favourably with Wycombe Wanderers. The ground is at present being bought by the local council from current owners, the Colliery Welfare. The facilities are shared between the local football and cricket clubs and the stand can cater for only 200.

The ground, like Wycombe's, possesses a slope, but unlike Loakes Park, from goal to goal rather than touching to touchline. The actual playing surface is said to be good. Two Old Age Pensioners look after the pitch and it appears to be one of the best in the league. Wycombe skipper Larry Pritchard is the only Wanderer to have played there, when Sutton United drew with Town in the Amateur Cup.

The last time Wanderers met similar opposition was way back in 1963-64 when they visited Spennymoor United in the third round. They lost out 1-2 after drawing 2-2 at Loakes Park.

Amateur Cup, Full Round 2 draw: Aveyde v. Leyton, Barkings v. Sutton, Bishops Stortford v. Boreham Wood & Hitchin, Blyth Spartan v. Fareham or Cheshunt, Evenwood Town v. Wycombe Wanderers, Highgate v. Herford, Hornchurch or Clacton v. Walthamstow Avenue or Woking, Kingstonian or Ilford v. St. Albans or Brockenhurst, Leeds and Carnegie College v. Dulwich Hamlet, Leytonstone v. Walton and Hersham, Loughborough College or Finsbury Lane Old Boys v. Chesham, Middlewich v. Leatherhead, North Shields or Alvechurch v. Shildon, Oxford City or Slough v. Ashton, Southall or Carshalton v. Spennymoor, Tiblury v. Hendon or Harwich.